GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:141
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2001
VISIT OF LI PENG
BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH;SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the bilateral and multilateral issues discussed with Chinese leader Li Peng who had visited India recently;

(b) the details thereof, issue-wise;

(c) the details of agreements signed on the occasion;

(d) whether disagreement persists between the two countries on the border demarcation;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to narrow down the differences on this score; and

(f) the efforts being made to establish harmonious relationship between the two countries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a)-(f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE PLACED ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE WITH REFERENCE TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTI 141 FOR ANSWER ON MARCH 7, 2001

Visit of Li Peng, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National Peoples Congress (NPC0 of China to India, 9 to 17 January 2001

Mr. Li Peng, Chairman of the National Peoples` Congress, during his official visit to India from 9 to 17 January, 2001 had frank and cordial discussions with our leadership on bilateral relations. He described the primary objective of his visit as the promotion of friendship and co-operation with India in which context, inter-alia he said:

China places emphasis on maintaining good-neighbourly relations with India; that China does not pose a threat to its neighbours; and does not view India as a threat; also that China wishes to see a prosperous, developed and strong India and welcomes a more active role by India in regional and international affairs.

Mr. Li Peng expressed a view that China desires to expand trade and economic co-operation with India.

He emphasized that there was need to enhance mutual trust and understanding, and that the common ground between our two countries far outweighs the differences, also that unresolved problems in our relations should not become impediments to the expansion of our relationship.

Prime Minister and other leaders reiterated Government`s commitment to developing friendly and good-neighbourly relations with China on the basis of Panchsheel and mutual sensitivity to each other`s concerns. The boundary question was discussed in broad terms. During discussions with Mr. Li Peng, it was also agreed that recent development represented progress and marked a good beginning. Wee have proposed that this process of LAC clarification should be expedited.

Our concerns regarding international and cross border terrorism were conveyed to Mr. Li Peng. He said that China condemns international terrorism in all forms.

We exchanged views on the international situation in general and agreed upon the desirability of a multi-polar world.

Mr. Li Peng said that co-operation between India and China will benefit peace and stability in the region and the world.

It has been agreed to establish Parliamentary Friendship Groups in both parliaments.

No specific bilateral agreement was signed during the visit.

The Government`s principled approach is based on the premise that good-neighbourly relations with China are to mutual benefit. This high-level dialogue with China has led to an overall improvement in our bilateral relationship. We believe that the two countries must solve all problems through dialogue, in a fair and reasonable manner. To the satisfaction of both countries, and with due sensitivity to each other`s concerns.